

Enclosure 5c
August 18, 2020

Rethink Grant



RHODE
ISLAND

Background

In July, RIDE was awarded a \$10.9M federal grant to expand high-quality course opportunities for students.

- Congress set aside 1% of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for grants to States with the highest coronavirus burden.
- The Education Stabilization Fund-Rethink K12 Education Models Grants (ESF-REM Grants) provide support to state educational agencies in states with the highest coronavirus burden to address specific educational needs of students, their parents, and teachers in public and non-public elementary and secondary schools.
- Rhode Island was one of 11 states to win a Rethink grant.
- Grant sizes ranged from \$6M to \$20M
- Grants can be spent over a 3-year period



Grant Priorities 1

RIDE will use the Rethink grant to expand on successful programs to better serve students during the pandemic and in coming years.

- Advanced Course Network (ACN) and course hub
 - Increase seats for existing ACN courses
 - Expand ACN to all grade levels and offer new courses (building on the SAIL with PrepareRI work)
 - Offer virtual dual enrollment courses on the ACN
 - Expand College Readiness Project courses in math and ELA, for 8th and 12th graders
- High-quality instructional materials
 - Add high-quality instructional materials in core subject areas to dramatically expand the number of children with access to courses supported with high-quality instructional materials.
 - Provide professional learning to teachers to use these materials successfully



Grant Priorities 2

RIDE will use the Rethink grant to expand on successful programs to better serve students during the pandemic and in coming years.

- **Counselors**
 - Embed more school counselors in schools that serve communities with high levels of poverty, to help students navigate these new course opportunities and connect them to their Individual Learning Plans.
- **Enrollment platform**
 - Help build a user-friendly online platform that will serve as a one-stop-shop for families seeking to access any of RIDE's statewide course options.
- **Ambassadors**
 - Hire part-time parent and student “ambassadors” to reach out to their peers to help more families access these programs. This builds on the successful PrepareRI Ambassador program.



Next Steps

- Fall 2020
 - Expand the number of seats offered through the ACN
 - Add new ACN courses, leveraging the success of SAIL
 - Launch new enrollment platform for students
 - Hire project staff, school counselors, and ambassadors
 - Develop RFP for high-quality instructional materials
 - Develop revised Readiness Project course curricula
- Spring 2021
 - Launch new Readiness Project courses
 - Start professional learning for new high-quality instructional materials



Questions?

